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MEMORANDUM

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

August 7, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM:

JOHN A. FROEBE, JR. *mf*

SUBJECT:

Your Meeting with the New Minister of the
Japanese Embassy, August 8, 1974, at
4:00 p.m.

You have agreed to meet with the new Minister of the Japanese Embassy, Seiya Nishida, on August 8, 1974, at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Nishida, who arrived here late last month, asked for this call in order to make your acquaintance and to have an initial general exchange of views. I believe this would be a useful opportunity to express our satisfaction with the developing U.S.-Japanese cooperation on multilateral issues, particularly energy, and to remind the Japanese of our continuing interest in keeping our bilateral trade balance within manageable limits. (Our trade deficit is headed upward again, after having decreased to \$1.3 billion by the end of last year.)

Mr. Nishida, who is 63, replaces Mr. Yamazaki in the second place in the Japanese Embassy after serving since 1972 as Deputy Director General of the Economic Affairs Bureau in the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo. His career in the Japanese Foreign Service, which began in 1946, has emphasized economics; he is regarded as highly competent and well-informed in his field. His assignment to the number two spot in the Embassy here should substantially strengthen its ability to deal with our common economic problems -- which have in recent years been handled mostly in Tokyo between our Embassy and the Foreign Ministry.

This is not Mr. Nishida's first tour in the United States. He served in the Embassy here in 1963-64, and followed that with a year's study at Harvard. His other foreign posts have included London, Teheran, and Canberra. His English is rather heavily accented but his comprehension is high. A brief

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Mr. Nishida will be accompanied by Counselor Donowaki, who is next in line after Nishida in the Embassy. I will plan to sit in on the meeting.

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2

Recommended Talking Points

-- Welcome Mr. Nishida back to Washington after his absence of a decade.

-- Reaffirm the high importance we attach to our relationship to Japan as our major ally in Asia.

-- Note that happily we have arrived at a relatively quiescent period in our bilateral relationship, having gotten such major irritants as normalization of relations with China and our bilateral trade imbalance under control. We believe we must use this present opportunity to work actively and constructively on the major global and regional multilateral problems we both face now.

-- We believe we are progressing well with the new emphasis in our relationship on multilateral problems. Our cooperative efforts in the energy field, for example, have been particularly useful. How does the Minister see the energy question evolving in Japan, both as regards the domestic problems it creates and in terms of the foreign policy problems it presents for Japan?

-- Of closely related interest, we are well aware of Japan's interest in U. S. participation in Siberian resource development projects, and are actively working on a reply to Prime Minister Tanaka's memorandum of May 11 to the President (which was forwarded to us through the Japanese Embassy here).

-- We appreciate deeply the major progress the Tanaka Government made last year toward bringing the U. S. - Japan bilateral trade imbalance within more manageable limits. We are aware of the new pressures which greatly increased costs of imported oil places on Japan. How does the Minister see this problem at this point?

-- The President still hopes to make his visit to Japan this year. FYI: In the present U. S. domestic political context, the Japanese are rather feverishly speculating whether the visit will hold. It might be useful therefore to reaffirm the President's intention. As you will recall, Secretary Kissinger told Ambassador Yasukawa on July 19 that the President would be interested in late November as a time to make a visit. Mr. Smyser later told Counselor Donowaki that we would await their response. END FYI.

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3

-- Express willingness to discuss whatever issues the Minister may wish to bring up with you at any time. We are extremely pleased over the increasingly healthy, close cooperation that has developed between our two countries. We believe that the process of close consultation between our two nations as allies can do much to improve understanding and to bridge the gap between our two cultures.

Concurrence:

Mr. Ellerman *pe / hrc*

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